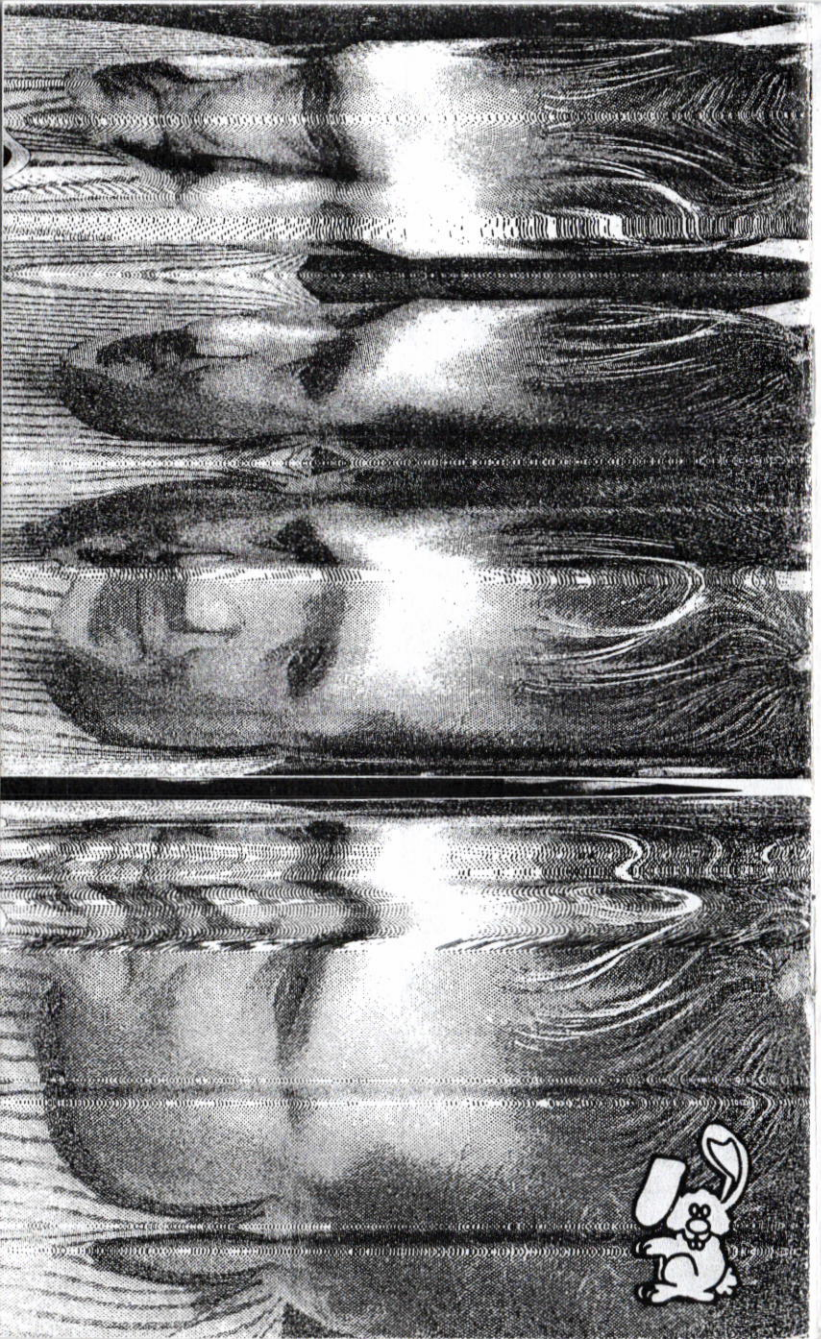

Something for nothing

Free

issue 61

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

issue 61 · july 2005

welcome all to the 61st issue of something for nothing. many things in my life are kind of up in the air right now, including this zine. there will probably be an issue 62 some day--maybe soon, maybe way down the road. i can't imagine not doing this zine anymore, it's just that life has been full of crazy stuff lately, and i'm not sure what will come of it all. vague? yes. rest assured, i won't be able to keep myself from making another issue at some point.

as you can see from the typewriter text, i'm still computerless. hopefully i can get another one eventually, but until that time, please do not e-mail me. i have loads i need to reply to, but no way to really do so. it will be hard for many of you, but you'll just have to send me an old fashioned letter. also, i've lost my mailing list (it was on the computer). i have a print out from a couple years ago, but many of the addresses are no good anymore, and there are some i'd added since then that i lost. i'm compiling a new one, so if you know someone who was supposed to be on it but hasn't heard from me, didn't get the last issue (or this one) and wants to, please tell them to get in touch (or if you fit those qualifications, please do the same!).

something rather big that has changed in my life that i would like to talk a bit about is that i've actually been going to church. i'm sure that that will come as a surprise to a lot of people. in a sense it still does to me. you see, while i've been a christian for like 18 years or so, i've never really been a church-goer. of course, i had to go with my parents to their catholic church until i was 18, and for a while in high school i was going to the youth group at an assemblies of god church. other than that, i've never really gone to church regularly. i guess i've always been so weirded out and turned off by mainstream american christianity that i figured i'd never find a church that i'd like. at a few points years ago i was involved in a couple home church/bible study type dealies, but they kind of fell apart eventually.

anyway, last year i was trying to get things more together spiritually, and my friend lynn had been telling me about the church she was going to, and it sounded alright. i went there with her for a while, and it was good but kind of lacked the intensity and personal aspects that i really wanted. she started going to a different church while i was missing a few wekks, and i ended up going with her to that one. i almost immediately knew that it was the right place for me. as with a lot of more contemporary churches, i find the musical portion of the service a little goofy (more due to the actual songs than the vibe or execution. i guess i actually kind of prefer the old hymns, which is a little odd). however, the people there are super nice, and i actually agree with the pastor probably about 95% of the time, which is pretty amazing. while it seems like they want to increase the size a lot, i really like the fact that it's such a small group (probably around 40 people if everyone is there). i like the small, personal aspect of it, and have always felt that that's a better way to go about things. i think that when a church gets to like 50 members, it might be time to cut it in two so that it can remain personal. it seem like everyone knowing everyone else, or at least being familiar with them, is much better than having 800 members. anyway, if anyone is interested, it's called the place of purpose, and is moving right

ugly idy sticker: marker and copier manipulated photo. 2.75x2.75"
bunny sticker: sfn bunny and lots of "g"s. 2.75x2.75"
something for nothing sticker: two bunnies and the zine name. 8.5x1.25"

all stickers are 5 for $1.00. cash only. buttons with the sfn bunny are 2 for $1.00--in assorted colors. name one and i'll probably have it.

the wailers "burnin' (deluxe edition)" 2xcd... erroneously credited to "bob marley and the wailers" on the spine, this is, of course, the wailers' second album for island records--and the last with the collaboration of bob marley, peter tosh, and bunny wailer. the first disc contains the original album, featuring newer versions of "duppy conqueror", "put it on", and "small axe", as well as the well known (and not-really-all-that-great) "i shot the sheriff" and "get up, stand up". the tosh-written and sung "one foundation" is here, along with bunny's "pass it on" and "hallelujah time". there are also five bonus tracks--two of which are just different cuts of "get up, stand up". the other three, however, are all very worth having--the bunny wailer sung "reincarnated souls" and "the oppressed song", plus a great version of "no sympathy". all three were cut during the "burnin'" sessions, and should certainly have been included on the original album. "reincarnated souls", in particular, shines above pretty much the whole album, with it's funky vibe and acoustic guitar. disc two is a live set from leeds in november of 1973. it's from after bunny wailer quit touring, but still includes pter tosh (but not joe higgs, as on the "talkin' blues" album recorded in the u.s. during the same era). the vocal harmonies are more sparse, but there's plenty of tosh's crazy guitar playing! the set list is mostly drawn from "burnin'" and "catch a fire", but adds "lively up yourself" and tosh's "can't blame the youth" (shouldn't there be a studio version of that somewhere?). it's pretty good, for a live album. the packaging is nice, with a four panel gatefold sleeve and a booklet full of lyrics, liner notes, and the original album photos. overall it's a pretty nice set, and worth buying if you can find it used (but not new--it's too expensive!). island/tuff gong. find it everywhere.

issue 60: the dead milkmen reunion; cornerstone 2004; finding an old compilation tape; fostering kids; why you're not punk; "no longer a christian"; reviews, and other assorted things.
issue 59: a review of chico california; i moved and had crappy friends (but i'm not so great myself sometimes); words jeremiah doesn't like; put put golf is fun with the clumsy; reviews.
issue 58: scary toilet cameras; fun stories from david small bird; weird stuff from david boone; cornerstone 2003; those ever present reviews.
issue 57: hot stuff on the cover (and elsewhere); olivia talks about women and sterotypes; i whine about lots of things; you're not allowed to use cluster bombs, you jerks!; weird and fun stuff from the davids; don't forget the reviews.
issue 55: two left! i like summer and miss lots of things; getting old is discussed by a couple people; everyone is confusing to me; tyler moved; going to the lady doctor; reviews--hooray.
issue 54: gay bars; the real world; i'm too shy; war is bad; reviews.
issue 53:want the last copy? cornerstone 2001; bugs; beverages; don't do shows in churches; the u.s. is lame; the hard anthropic principle; even reviews!

for back issues, send 60¢ in stamps for one, and a 23¢ stamp for each additional one.

order any stuff above from me at the usual address:

something for nothing
516 third street n.e.
massillon oh 44646

get it all out of my house. it's been sitting around too long.

sleeping dogs "beware" cd... this contains the long out of print sleeping dogs 7" (crass records), brainrust 12" (post-sleeping dogs with similar members, originally on vinyl communications), and several unreleased home recordings. the 7" is probably the most accessible material here, but even it is so laced in avant garde minimalism that most of you won't be interested in it. i happen to like their weird bass and drum-oriented songs, but i think i have more of an interest in arty experimentalism than most punk fans. the vocals have that monotone-zombie feel to them, and the songs are more based on rhythms than chords or melodies. agit-prop-doomsday-art-punk, i suppose. neat.
i think about $10 to: broken rekids|po box 460402|san francisco ca 94146-0402

snuff "six of one, half a dozen of the other" 2xcd... you know, for many years i didn't care at all about this band. my friend jeff was really into them, but i was fairly indifferent. at some point in the late 90s i saw them and was pretty impressed, but still never bothered to get any of their records. then a couple years ago a certain friend played them for me and i liked them pretty well. since then i've acquired a good many of their records and enjoy them. they're silly in that distinctly british way, but also really good at writing catchy songs (many of which aren't very silly at all). the first disc here is a selection of their alleged best songs, most of which i already had. the second disc, however, is comprised of compilation tracks, b-sides, a few unreleased songs, and other "rarities". "dow dow boof boof" sounds like that one nirvana song. there are several goofy covers ("i will survive", "i think we're alone now", "i try", "hokey cokey"), and lots of good originals i'd not heard before. this is well worth getting for the second disc, and it's priced like a single disc, so there's nothing lost if you already have all of the albums. plus you get liner notes from sean of wat tyler!
$12.00 to: fat wreck chords|po box 193690|san francisco ca 94119-3690

joe jack talcum "home recordings 1984-1997" cd... if you were as sad as i was about the break-up of butterfly joe after only one album, this may be comforting. as the title suggests, it's a collection of 4-track recordings from 1984 to 1997, almost totally performed by mr talcum (who you may know from the dead milkmen, low budgets, butterfly joe, the town managers, or even touch me zoo). it's weird, silly, funny, confusing, and even a little sad at times (well, mostly on "another time"). many of the songs are like more minimally arranged butterfly joe songs, and just about all of them are super catchy and really well written. quite possibly the neatest thing reviewed in this issue!
$9.50 to: valient death|3337 poplar dr|smithfield va 23430

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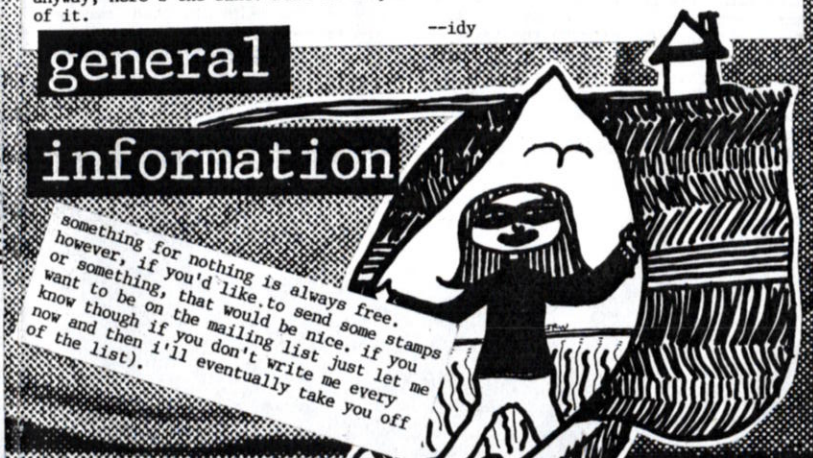
now to a new location in belden village. the teaching is actually challenging and makes you think (and hopefully do), which is definitely way better than the wishy-washy cheerleading you get at some places. i think it's been really beneficial to me, and i really like going. it kind of sucks that my random work schedule prevents me from getting more involved. hopefully some time that will work out a little better, though. it also sucks having to get up in the morning, but what can you do? (why aren't church services in the afternoon or evening? more people need to cater to me!)
anyway, this issue is kind of small, and is unfortunately about half reviews. no one contributed, spare david small bird and some leftover art i had from john williamson, jeremiah, and alex. i pretty much did the whole issue myself, which hasn't happened in many, many years. despite those things, i kind of like this one (especially the cover, which is the realization of a dream i've had for several years). it kind of reminds me of issues from about five years ago--which is extra weird because i've kind of been wishing that a lot of the last five years had never happened. if anyone out there, particularly the regular contributers, but really anyone at all, wants to help with the next issue, send stuff and i'll hopefully use it whenever the next issue comes out. this issue may have been a bit bigger, but i didn't want to go to cornerstone empty handed again this year, so i'm finishing it at the last minute. i think it's the smallest issue in many, many years (perhaps [or likely] a result of me doing most of it myself).
anyway, here's the zine. read it if you want to. then tell me what you thought of it.

--idy

general information



something for nothing is always free. however, if you'd like to send some stamps or something, that would be nice. if you want to be on the mailing list just let me know though if you don't write me every now and then i'll eventually take you off of the list).

credit where credit is due:

writin' stuff: idy, and david small bird.
drawin' stuff: jeremiah, john r williamson, and alex.
front cover ganked from cartoon planet by scott and idy. back cover by idy. layouts by idy, as well.

where to write:

something for nothing
516 third street n.e.
massillon oh 44646

"the u.s. history books, where bullshit will abound/say african tribal leaders sold their brothers down/it may ease white man's conscience, 'bout things he used to do/by tellin' lies to justify what just ain't friggin' true!"

quotes you don't hear every day

"i bet she wishes bud light were an amoeba"--jen!
"why don't you wanna scratch my back with your ice cream"--idy

temporary favorites

idy
the slackers "international war criminal"
rocker-t "hold on strong"
poison girls "chappaquiddick bridge"
enemy you "stories never told"
damien jurado "on my way to absence"

layout music

minor threat "complete discography"; the minutemen "the punch line" & "what makes a man start fires?"; flux of pink indians "strive to survive causing the least suffering possible" & "neu smell"; the mob "let the tribe increase" + singles; the dickies "dawn of the dickies"; plus whatever i listen to when i lay out the last few pages...

thanks list:

god, for being amazing and patient in every way; scott and tina; lynn; kris and tangela; jason; josh; tyler; jeremiah; olivia; milhouse; chad; overly friendly mike; jeff; rob; david small bird; john willaimson; mark; ryan, wherever he is; nate; and everyone at the place of purpose. also, my estranged friend alex.

You are never bitter,
deceptive or petty.
Lucky Numbers 3, 8, 14, 22, 31, 34, 42

7 seconds "take it back, take it on, take it over!" cd... you basically can't go wrong with 7 seconds. they were one of the first hardcore bands i got into, and have always been one of my very favorites. their music has meant and continues to mean an awful lot to me, and most of their records still get regular rotation on my stereos. i know a lot of people don't like their late 80s/early90s stuff, but i do (i think "soulforce revolution" is one of the best records ever). like their last album, this is more along the lines of their earlier hardcore stuff, but a bit more melodic (kind of like if you crossed "the crew" with "the music, the message"). while i personally would have liked to see them keep building on what they were doing 15 years ago, and growing with that, i guess this is what they wanted to do for now--and they do it well. a good number of the songs are about "the scene": being thankful for people being so supportive of them over the years, the lameness and mass consumption of mass marketed "punk", and welcoming new people. friendship, anxiety, and war are also covered. the music is mainly fast and melodic, with crazy bass parts all over the place. many of the guitar parts are very reminiscent of "the crew" era. while it may not be quite as anthemic and passionate as the early records, it's still way better than most of the bands out there, and 7 seconds are easily my favorite band currently in existence. i saw them recently, and they are still totally amazing and energetic. $10.00 to: side one dummy mailorder|po box 2350|los angeles ca 90078

the slackers "international war criminal" cdep... wow. this may be the slackers' most cohesive and consistent release yet! granted, all of their stuff is great, but there's really not a weak track here (although i guess if you're only releasing five songs, you want to make sure they're all really good). the whole disc has an anti-war/political slant, and i think they raise a lot of good points ("it's funny how they'll go on and define terror as killing and exploding things to force your own agenda"), and they play some really good reggae and ska music while they're at it. i just wish the version of "propaganda" here had the lyrics vic sang when i saw them about a year ago, about how on sept. 11, 2001 the media was showing footage of people celebrating in the middle east--when they would have been sleeping. this seems to be released by something called "thought squad"--get it at a slackers show, or try checking these websites: www.thoughtsquad.com/www.theslackers.com

the slackers/pulley split cd... i think most people would agree that they wouldn't expect these bands to do a record together. very weird. naturally the slackers portion is brilliant. it begins with a new recording of "sarah", and continues with "keep it simple", which is on the new ep, as well. those are both good songs, but i'd rather have some new/exclusive material (especially since i paid a ridiculous amount for both of these discs). all is not lost, though--there's a nice reggae cover of bob dylan's "i shall be released", and a spanish-sung, latin-music-oriented song called "donde fue". there's also "propaganda dub", which seems to be from a different recording than the one on the ep (it's tad slower, and has different drumming). pretty neat... i liked the first pulley record, but haven't cared much about them since. i think they're down to two original members. they cover minor threat's entire "salad days" ep for some reason. really, guys--why try? they do an especially poor job with the title track, and credit "good guys don't wear white" to minor threat, when it was actually a cover even when they did it. you should still get this for the slackers portion.
do-tell records|po box 3121|dayton oh 45401

names for graves "five song demo" cd... i was dining at peking gourmet last june with some friends when some guy gave us all copies of this cd. i assume he's one of the band members. assuming it would be crap, we all quickly forgot about it. in february of this year i stumbled across it again and decided to give it a play. i was pleasantly surprised. these guys play fast, thrashy hardcore with lots of chunky riffs and well shouted vocals. they kind of mix an early 80s style with a late 80s youth crew sound, and mix it with kind of vague lyrics (which aren't all that interesting, but not really bad). i'll have to watch for them playing around here. good stuff. names for graves|4237 w 49th|cleveland oh 44144

potshot "dance to the potshot record" cd... i guess what you need to know about this is that it's "punk-ska"--more punk with horns than ska, really. when the guitar goes clean it's really quiet. the drums sound funny, too. the singer does this weird thing where he breaks up syllables or something. it gets a bit annoying. they're from japan, but sound very u.s. influenced, which is too bad. it would be nice if they had their own take on this style, like the u.k. bands do. regardless, they're okay if you like punky ska, but i don't generally like such things.
$8.00 to: asian man records|po box 35585|monte sereno ca 95030

paint it black "paradise" cd... paint it black's first album is one of my favorite records of the last few years. it was in many ways a throwback to early 80s east coast (particularly washington dc) hardcore, but with some more modern touches (and better sound quality). this new album builds on that foundation, but with more mid-tempo (and even slow), west coast/black flag-esque parts. there are a few less songs, and a few more minutes, plus a lot more melody, but overall it's still fast, thrashy, and really good. the drumming is particularly amazing, with lots of crazy ride-bell stuff and fast everything. the lyrics are socio-political, but also sort of vague and full of metaphores. there's a lot of stuff apparently aimed at the current conservative administration, with all of it's regulations, survellance , and war. all good things to be upset about. there's also a big slant toward not giving up, which is also good. summing up--good music, good lyrics, good record for you to buy.
$10.00 to: jade tree records|2310 kennwynn rd|wilmington de 19810

screeching weasel "boogadaboogadaboogada" cd... apparently screeching weasel is the latest band to defect from the ranks at lookout. good for them. asian man is now reissuing their catalog, at lower prices! i'm one of those rare folks that never cared for this band. i guess they were ok, and this album is at least faster and more fun then most of their other stuff i've heard. i still don't see what the big deal is, though. the music is kind of a mixture of 80s hardcore and pop-punk, and the lyrics are goofy and obviously written by people in their late teen/early 20s. there are lots of liner notes (including revisionist history. 7 seconds were playing posi-core in 1988? bands weren't melodic in the late 80s? sweet baby, anyone? crimpshrine? all? chicago's own group of individuals [who's universal satirical association zine was the first place i ever heard of screeching weasel, by the way]?) and illegible fliers and stuff. bleh. at least there's a song called "i hate led zepplin"...
$8.00 to: asian man records|po box 35585|monte sereno ca 95030

DEDICATION

this issue of something for nothing is dedicated to erin bacon (hooper). those of you who remember the christian underground scene of the late 1980s and early 90s should remember erin from her great zine, different drummer. different drummer was one of the first zines i ever read (and one of the first i traded with), and erin was one of my first pen pals. she was also one of the only ones from that time that i still had contact with. i remember getting the first issue of her zine and being totally impressed by it's size, scope of coverage, and unique perspective and feel. it ran for 11 issues, and just kept getting better with each one. erin always wrote much longer (and i'd imagine more interesting) letters than i wrote her, and was always nice and encouraging. i remember getting to meet her and jason underground (who was by then assistant editor of different drummer) at my first cornerstone festival in 1989. i think i hung out with them more than anyone else that year (and the following couple years), and had a great time sitting around their campsite talking and listening to jason's songs (plus eating his two-hours-to-cook spaghetti). i remember hanging out with them and many of their friends (and erin's mom!) at cornerstone 1991. back then she was erin hooper, but by the next year she was married to joe bacon, and they were at the festival (i think it was kind of their honeymoon). this was the last time i got to talk to erin in person (and sadly i didn't get to hang out with her a whole lot, though they were camped right behind us). we kept in touch via letters, and eventually e-mail, ever since, though. our contact did become less frequent over the years, but i always liked hearing from erin, and learning about new things in her life, like her band with joe--beauty for ashes. sometime in the mid-90s erin lost one of her eyes to melanoma and had to get a fake one to take it's place. even then, she never seemed to let it get her down or stand in the way of living life. i remember being sad for her, but impressed that she could go through something like that and not let it get her down.
to me, one of the nicest things erin ever did for me was compiling two vhs tapes full of simpsons episodes for me. i sent her a list of episodes i didn't have taped, and she copied me the ones she had that i didn't. fairly recently i remember she sent me a really nice e-mail regarding some stuff i'd written about friendships gone amiss, relating some things from her own experience, and encouraging me to deal with it and move on. even though she lived across the country in california and we didn't communicate that often anymore, she was still what i would consider a true friend.
early this year erin started sending out some emails about her current health conditions. she'd been experiencing severe back pain, and eventually found that it was being caused by the melanoma spreading to her bones and some organs. this was upsetting to me, both because i was sad for her, and because i was computerless at the time and couldn't really respond and try to communicate in a personal way. erin was nice enough to send me print-out of the first few emails via standard mail, and i would occasionally get to read some of the others at my friends' house. honestly, it sounded bad, but i felt like she would somehow pull through it like she had earlier.
the second week of june i learned that erin had passed away on may 28th. it was shocking, for certain, but also kind of a relief. i knew she'd been suffering quite a bit toward the end, and honestly--when i hear that a follower of christ (which erin was always a much better example of than most i've encountered) has died, i don't get so much sad as jealous. i'm just sad for joe, and her friends and family that i'm sure will miss her terribly. i know i will. i also know that i'll see her again, though.

[incidentally, if anyone has a copy of different drummer #2 and would like to give it up, or just make me a copy of it, it would be much appreciated. i loaned mine out years ago and never got it back.]

always tell the voter what the voter wants to hear.

november 2004. i did something i thought i'd never do. i voted in the national election. that is surprising for everyone, i'm sure. it was for me, anyway. for most of my life i've believed that voting changes very little, and is not the expression of power that many try to make it out to be--rather, that it is an admittance of powerlessness. like saying the only way i can effect things is to spend five minutes selecting others to make decisions for me. i believed it then, too (and still do now), but i guess i'd become so desperate for things to change that i was willing to go against my own common sense and conscience, and participate in state politics. it is something i regretted mere hours later.

i would guess that most of you are aware that i'm not in favor of mr bush and his war machine. nor am i very convinced that he believes what he claims to believe, faith wise. he's either as dopey as he seems, or has a good act going and is well aware of the ramifications of his policies. regardless, he's by far the scariest president in my lifetime. i really didn't know a whole lot about john kerry, though what i did know didn't make him seem all that great. i did see some of a pbs program detailing both main candidates' political careers a few days before the election, which made kerry seem at least decent in comparison. still probably a jerk, though. still, i don't know why i didn't realize it then that he had no chance, if for no other reason than him being a catholic. there's only ever been one catholic president before, and he was assassinated. add to it that he's pro-choice (though only in the sense that he doesn't feel he should impose his own beliefs on others. personally he is against abortion), which i'm sure alienated many catholic and protestant voters, who base their choice on only that issue (which is extremely silly, as it's pretty obvious by his war and environmental policies that bush isn't too concerned about anyone's lives. my dad suggested that the republicans just pull out the abortion issue at election time because they know they can get a bunch of gullible people to vote for them based on that, even though they have no intention of doing anything about it. pro-choicers please don't worry--there's far too much money being made by the abortion industry for it to be going away any time soon).

i ended up going around the corner to vote for mr kerry (and a bunch of other random people who i really knew nothing about. i tried to vote for mostly women, just to try to tip the balance of power a bit, but mainly treated the whole thing as the joke it is). i'd spent a lot of time wrestling with this in my mind, as my conscience just was not good with the concept of voting. i feel that all government is essentially an effort to take power and authority from god, who is the only authority i need. while i do think that some governments may be less bad than others, i still believe they're all still bad, and thus i can't really support them any more than i absolutely have to in order to remain in society. at the same time, i don't believe in trying to overthrow them or anything like that, as that is essentially a legitimation of their power (or an acknowledging of it, anyway), and i simply don't believe it is legitimate. thus, i can't exactly support or oppose them, but more treat them as the relative good/bad things that they are. mainly, i just have to laugh at them.

it's not that i really think kerry would have done a whole lot better, as anyone with that much power is obviously not too well intentioned. it's just that i think bush is so horrible that pretty much anyone would have to be a little better. alas, he is back. not doing any better, either.

damien jurado "this fabulous century" lp... this is a collection of demos from 1998, when damien was just starting with his solo material. the first few songs are actually not too good, and pretty sloppy. towards the end of side one it starts to get better, though--particularly the 1980s sounding "1988--remove the past". side two is more consistent, with less instrumentation and more experimentation. while none of the material on here is as good as damien's albums, it's an interesting look into the formation of his songwriting style. for the most part it's much more lighthearted than his recent stuff, but there are still some darker elements here and there. this is limited to a few hundred copies, so get it quick if you're a completeist like me.

$10.00 to: burnt toast vinyl|po box 42188|philadelphia pa 19101

damien jurado "on my way to absence" cd... due to trying to get a review of this album in at the last minute, i'm doing the unthinkable--listening to a damien jurado album in the daytime. i've always thought a distinct and important aspect of damien's music was that it had that sound that make it listenable exclusively at night. there's a dark, sort of mysterious quality to the songs and the arrangements that makes it best listened to in the nighttime. there's a new version of "simple hello" on this album, which is nice, as that's always been one of my favorite songs (though i think i like the original recording just slightly better). there are eleven other songs, too--and they're all good. i'd say that this may be damien's most consistent record yet. all of the songs are really solid and well written. the only complaint i have is the semi-distorted vocals on "i am the mountain"--that effect is best left to industrial music. most of the songs are full band arrangements, by the same line-up as on "i break chairs", so i'm not sure why this is credited to damien rather than gathered in song. perhaps they gave up on that idea. regardless, this is a very good record that you should buy--at least if you're into dark folk-based rock music.

$12.00 to: secretly canadian|1499 west second street|bloomington in 47403

incidentally, damien has released an awful lot of records in the last year and a half. there was another full length on secretly canadian, an ep on the same label, an ep on some european label, the demos lp on burnt toast, and a tour-only cd-r of outtakes--plus this one. slow down, man.

mdc "magnus dominus corpus" ls... it's been 13 years since the last mdc lp (though there have been a couple 7"s) --not that anyone cared, as they really haven't made a consistent record since "smoke signals". there have definitely been good songs here and there, but their output has been generally sub-par since the early 80s. with this record, they're back with 3/4 of the original members (and all four on the recent tour!), and have made a pretty good record. it's nowhere near as good (or musically amazing) as "millions of dead cops" or the two eps from the same era, but still very good. it actually reminds me a lot of the aforementioned "smoke signals". most of the songs are fast (though not as fast as the early stuff), and the lyrics aren't as goofy as on many of their records (though still a little goofy). there are tribute songs to tim yohannon and gary floyd, which is nice, and the usual political and anti-cop statements. easily their best record nearly 20 years.

?: sudden death records|cascades po|box 43001|burnaby bc|canada v5g 3h0

You will hear pleasant news.
Lucky# 13,19,31,37,44,49

MUSIC REVIEWS.

almost everything reviewed this time is stuff that i bought. the main exception being the stuff on asian man (a very good label that you should buy stuff from --just not the stuff reviewed this time). i kind of like the fact that i haven't been getting much music to review, because usually people just send me crap. feel free to send me good stuff, though. it's kind of weird that most of the reviews are positive.

chumbawamba "un" cd... i've liked chumbawamba since jason underground taped me their first five albums in about 1994 or so. since then they've had their 15 minutes of fame (with an album that was really pretty lousy) and moved back into relative obscurity. they've also developed a bit of an adult-contemporary feel--but still very eclectic and interesting, both musically and lyrically. they still employ a lot of dance music elements, but have definitely mellowed out some since "shhh" or "anarchy". while this isn't as brilliant or creative as the post-"tubthumper" album, "wysiwyg", it's much better than "readymades" (which, after recent listenings, isn't as bad as i originally thought). lyrically they deal with the bleaching out of iraqi culture, the decapitation of a statue of margret thatcher, the bully culture that leads to school chootings, pie-throwing revolutionaries, and other creative subversiveness. i think i might be one of the only pre-pop star chumbawamba fans that still likes them and thinks they're doing something good.
mutt/koch records. look around...

enemy you "stories never told" cd... five years after their first album, a second finally sees the light of day. this was actually recorded in 2002, but since lookout are jerks it's just now getting released, on the new red scare label. i'm not sure if i like this quite as much as "where no one knows my name", but it's very good, regardless. while i like all of their songs, i like the fast ones the best --they only make up six of the fourteen tracks here, though. musically i've always thought enemy you sounded like bad religion, except good. this is no different, though a couple songs are a bit more pop-ish than usual. the lyrics are the usual david jones cynicism-touched-with-hope. they can really knock it out, and this album is a good representation of that... good luck finding a copy, though.
www.redscare.net/www.enemyyou.com

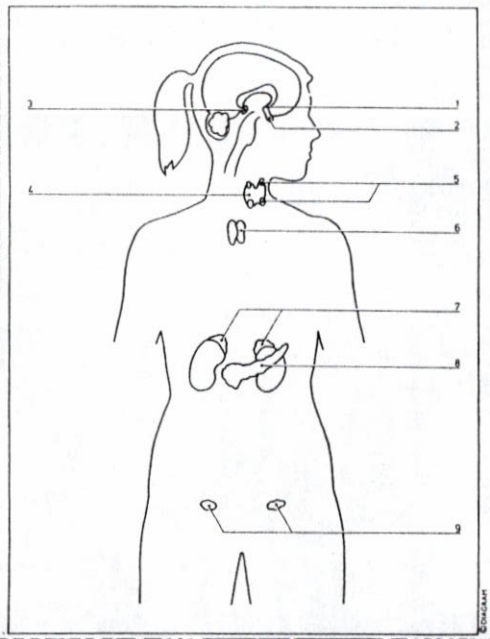
the cure "three imaginary boys" 2xcd... i've always liked the cure (but only up to "the head on the door"), but never bought any of their records until about 7 or 8 years ago. their first album, "three imaginary boys", was until now available only as an import. i never had it until about three years ago when i found a copy for $3 (rather than the $28 i usually saw it for). it is now finally released domestically, with a second disc of singles, demos, and live tracks from the same era. the actual alum, while not my favorite cure record, still sounds good, and was obviously unique for it's time (and is probably the most non-cure sounding cure album). it's kind of a mix of dark power-pop, and even darker, slower songs. songs like "another day" and the title track give a glimpse of things to come on "seventeen seconds" and "faith". there was a u.s. release called "boys don't cry", which included much of the album, but with some tracks replaced with singles and other songs from the album sessions. disc two includes most of those tracks, but the exclusion of "plastic passion" and "killing an arab" is inexcusable--especially since disc two is only 64 minutes long, and disc one is just 34. also, the sound quality of "world war" (which is on my vinyl copy of "boys don't cry", but not on my cd version) is muddy and annoying. there are neat demos of "fire in cairo", "i'm cold", "boys don't cry", and others, plus demos and studio out-takes of unreleased songs (most of which are better than some of the songs that made it onto the album), which make it worthwhile. the packaging is trippy and the liner notes are okay, but could have been better and more detailed. overall, though, it's a nice set--the missing songs just make it frustrating.

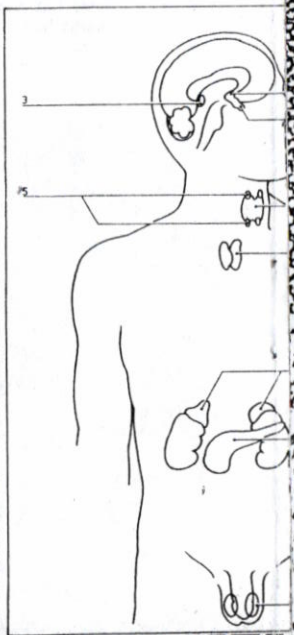
There is not greater pleasure than seeing your lived ones prosper.

shortly after the election, i came across a passage of scripture that i'd read many times before, but something suddenly jumped out at me. "the adversary took him up, showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world, and said to him, 'i will give you all this power and glory. it has been handed over to me, and i can give it to whomever i choose. so if you will worship me, it will all be yours'. yeshua answered him, 'the tanakh says, "worship adonai your god and serve him only"'". (luke 4:5-8, complete jewish bible). this is part of

"is it sunday?/no/is it monday?/no/ is it tuesday, bluesday, better-wear-shoes-day?/no, no, no, no, no, no, no!"

jesus (yeshua) being tempted by satan in the wilderness. if kingdoms (governments) have been given to satan to give to who he chooses, that kind of makes me think that christians should not be participating in them. at least that's what i got out of it. tell me what you think. it also says to worship and serve god only, and jesus later says that his kingdom is not of this world. to me it seems as if we're to give governments and politicians the same respect we'd give anyone else, but perhaps not give them credit for things they haven't actually done (such as granting us freedom. that's something god does. governments can only take away or restrict that freedom).
going back to the concept of voting: to me it seems like voting is just a bone that we get thrown to make us feel like we have some sort of say in politics. in reality we're just voting for some person that we've never met, who is supposed to represent us. i can't see how someone i've never had any interaction with is supposed to represent my views.
while watching the votes come in after the election it occurred to me that maybe the united states is too big of a place. again, i'm not too trusting of governments in general, but maybe if each state was it's own nation things would work a little better. this is, of course, just some crazy idea that popped into my head, and i'm sure it's not going to happen. i just thought it was interesting.
in closing, i'd just like to say that i seriously doubt i'll be voting again. it's not that i necessarily think it's wrong to vote (though i'm pretty sure it's wrong for me), i just think it's kind of stupid.





THE BOTTOM LINE

There was a time when the people possessed nothing. This was before the time came when people began to collect, amass and hoard. When writing was invented then there came deeds to the land and trading and making deals.

This is a story of the old time when people weren't possessive, greed was not heard of and how it all changed. If you don't believe this happened here on planet Earth then imagine it in another galaxy far away but in fact, it did happen here.

In those early days no one rushed into anything. Without greed there was nothing to pursue. Why grasp if there's no holding? For an example of this, think of something that people only need one of. Assholes? Yeah, okay, you only need one, right? At one time we all each had one. Then through trade, commerce, somebody got two leaving someone else with none. The one with two was not benefited and the one with none was left with no way to go. They came to call this surplus of anuses "assets". People would count and take pride in the total of their assets and hence coined the term "bottom line", as in "show me your bottom line".

In those days there came to be a man with two assets who regretted leaving the garden where no one needed to possess and his only asset had been one and natural. He called for an assembly of those with the biggest bottom lines and many assets. He began to assail the assembly, asking them to assume his reasonableness and assent to the assorted arguments he would amass. "Let this mass of men associate and assess the benefits of the simpler olden times." he asserted, and assent they did. They would amass no more assets.....the end.

proper gander [#46] (11¾x14"--20 pages--$10/year (six issues). 1 issue, $2?)... weird art and comics on newsprint, gathered from all over (texas, maryland, california, holland, and italy this time). a lot of it looks pretty neat. there are some really odd things, and some rather surreal pieces, too. plus there are zine and music reviews. it has a nice color cover, despite the awful newsprint.
proper gander|po box 434|san marcos tx 78667

the second grader [issue #17] (5½x8½"--32 pages--?)... i think this should be called the seventh grader, because it looks and reads like it was made by one. it has lots of photos of scantily-clad busty ladies, and short writings from the mindset of those infatuated with such things. if i really wanted to hear stuff like this i could just go to work and listen to the drunken redneck customers. when did those guys start making zines?
the second grader|5 haele pl|makawao hi 96768

shot by a ray gun [#10] (6½x5½"--16 pages--$1.00)...this issue is a collection of comics billy made for other publications. there's a really good one about a squirrel moving in with the family of a guy who cuts down the tree it lived in. the drawings are really weird and kind of gross, but always neat. send billy a pile of money and get a bunch of stuff!
billy mckay|po box 542|north olmsted oh 44070

survivor [vol 17, no 4 + 4b] (8½x11"--20 pages <each>--$3.00 <each>)... i guess this would be considered some sort of crackpot publication--by me, anyway. these two issues have some shared content--four of the pages are the same in both, and a couple others are very similar--reprinted political cartoons, weird/useless classified ads, reviews. other than that it's largely ads and reprints, for/about things like a british sci-fi show, a baseball card/comic shop, tanks, pro-gun/conspiracy/explosives books, and so on. pretty uninteresting, but i guess someone must read it if they've made this many issues.
thomas j evans|11-15 45th ave, apt 2e|long island city ny 11101-5154

weirdness before midnight [#4] (8½x11"--46 pages--$2.50)... as usual, lots of movie reviews (largely horror, but other stuff, too), plus some other bits, like: lots of reader mail, stories of how certain songs play into memories, an old letter that was just recently published elsewhere, a reprint about drug-songs, a reprint about reagan's cuts to social services, other reagan-related rambling, an encounter with a skunk ape (sasquatch-type creature), and some other bits. i liked reading it, as before, but i'm getting more irritated but words cut off at the bottoms of pages and poor clipping of reprinted comics, causing more word loss. the layout is dull, too. other than that, though, it's pretty interesting and varied, even if (like me) you're not into movies.
dave szurek|505 north f #829|aberdeen wa 98520-2601

A BOOK REVIEW.

yeah, it's a book, but it's made by a zine guy, and it's short--so it hardly counts. don't start sending me novels to review! i refuse!

aaron cometbus "mixed reviews" (4¼x6¼--68 pages--$3)... sadly, aaron has ceased publishing his zine. fortunately, he's now doing these little books. it's not as if there's a huge difference, as far as the writing. in fact, i'd say this is some of his best stuff of the last five years or so--maybe ever. the stories are often funny, always witty and entertaining, and sometimes even have a little lesson. the stuff toward the end ("restaurant reviews", "around the world in new york", "crash") is particularly good, but it's all very enjoyable. visually, it's still a bit weird to read his writing all typed up and printed like this, but you take what you can get. it's not necessarily bad, just different. i'm not sure where you can get this, but i'd guess that no idea probably has it.
www.noidearecords.com

ZINE REVIEWS.

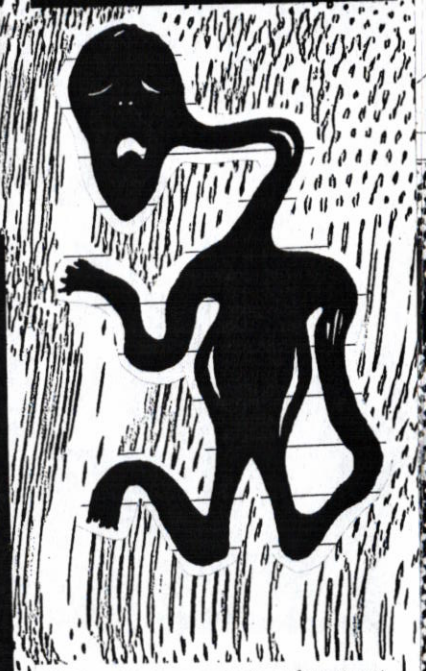
hey. i'm actually caught up with the zine reviews! amazing. the only bad thing is that the reason i'm caught up is that i haven't received very many zines lately. send me some!

the bacterial mad-scientists (4¼x5½"--8 pages--50¢)... here's another of aaron's weird, poorly drawn comics. it's about a doctor who's failed experiment won't allow him to die until he figures out what went wrong with it. he gets all decrepit and smelly. aaron's drawings always remind me of my old "mystery man" character that i would draw in my high school yearbooks.
ancient wisdom comics|po box 24894|detroit mi 48224

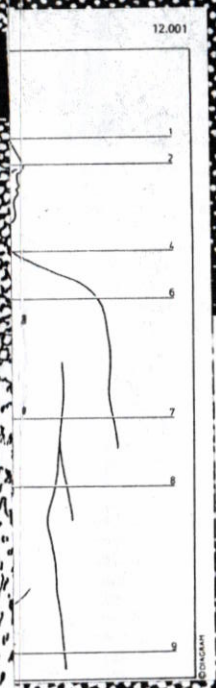
looming pylon [6] (7x8½"--24 pages+cd --$3.00)... this issue is largely about home recording--the quest for reel-to-reel tape, experiences with recording, and so on. other music related things pop up, too, such as stories about two guitars, and an interview with singapore sling. there are also music and zine reviews, letters, and a few other little bits. it also comes with a cd of some of the publisher's musical projects, which is a pretty good listen. maybe zines should always come with soundtracks.

the big vacation convention (4¼x5½"--8 pages--25¢)... apparently you can have 665 days of bliss, and then go to hell. at least that's the premise of this comic. there are more words than drawings in this, but what can you do?
ancient wisdom comics|po box 24894|detroit mi 48224

in between zine [no. 1] (8½x11"--16 pages --$1.50)... another in the ever growing number of zine titles from mr dawson. i'm not sure why he doesn't just combine them all into one name, as they all have a similar feel, and are all good. this one has a fairly long piece on his political ideology (which he categorizes as liberal libertarian), which i found interesting and could relate to much of. there are reviews of zines, catalogs, music, and movies--all of which are fun to read, as he's very descriptive and drops in a good deal of personal opinion and analysis. the last few pages include some letters, as well as a weird story about talking cats and a creepy patch of woods. the layout is pretty much three columns of text on each page, which is sort of dull--but the writing is all good, so it sort of makes up for that. i always enjoy james' zines, and look forward to more.
james n dawson|po box 613|redwood valley ca 95470

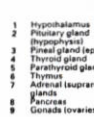


"i thought i saw you in a department store/you turned the corner and it wasn't you/i thought i saw you walkin' on the sidewalk/i blew my horn, but you were someone else"



stories by david small bird

THE PRECIOUS THING SALESMAN



"Knock, knock."

"Hello."

"Hi, I'm selling precious things."

"I don't want one."

"Only a fool would not want one 'cause if you're not a fool you'll want to own something precious.....but I warn you, it would be harmful to a fool. That's why a fool would not want to own something precious."

"Well, I'm no fool. I'll buy one!" and so he did.

"What you going to do with that?" asked his wife.

"It's precious."

"Fool!" sounding like Aretha Franklin.

"I ain't a fool. I bought something precious."

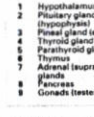
"So, what you going to do with it?"

"Do?"

She made him feel foolish and it hurt. "The salesman was right." he thought. "If I wasn't such a fool no one would call me a fool and even if they did, it wouldn't be harmful."

"Where you going fool?" asked the wife.

"I'm taking it upon myself to correct this unfortunate situation. I'm going door to door until I sell something precious to some one who is not a fool and will not be harmed." Once outdoors, he carried something precious to his neighbors.



"Knock, knock."

"Hello."

"Hi, I'm selling precious things."

"I don't want one."

"Only a fool would not want one....."

This story never ends. What does it mean? If the story really never ends then every neighbor will buy something precious from his neighbor, then sell it to another neighbor for ever and ever. Are there things that are precious but useless? The wife didn't question the preciousness only inquiring as to the usefulness. Was the husband thinking rightly when he bought it, or thinking rightly when he sold it? Was he thinking rightly both times or neither time? Or, is there another way of seeing it?

small bird

NOSTALGIA IS STUP

it's really easy for me to get caught up in nostalgia. i think it's kind of a bad thing to get too into, but is occasionally fun. it's not really a good idea to always be thinking things were better in times past (and they usually weren't, anyway--we just have a tendency to forget the bad parts and remember the good). doing so, in a sense, makes one sort of hopeless for the future. if the best times are all behind us, there's not really much to look forward to (this was always my big problem with my parents telling me that my highschool days were the best years of my life. for one, it certainly wasn't true--life has been about five thousand times better since school. more importantly, telling someone that is sort of liking saying they might as well kill themselves on graduation day, because life will just get worse from there). even if things seem worse, or at least not as enjoyable now, there's always the potential to make things better.

having said that, i've been looking through a lot of old zines lately. some of my own, but more so other people's. in doing that, i found myself really missing the community of people who made zines and traded them all over the country throughout the 90s. i'm sure this is still going on, and to some degree i'm still involved with that--though i've certainly been getting fewer zines in the last couple years (probably because i haven't been seeking out new ones). partly i just miss a lot of the people from back then, many of whom i've lost touch with completely, others i just hear from very occasionally. it's really sad to me that so many people seem to think that when they get older, get married, have kids and so forth, that they have to leave behind things that they loved when they were young. perhaps i just don't have perspective on this, as i'm still pretty much the same as i've always been, but i really think that growth is preferable to change. what i mean by this is that i think it's sad that people think that have to make trades--i can't be into this anymore because i have to do this, i can't like this anymore because now i like this. why not embrace new things and hold on to the old? granted, there are things that should change--bad things. but i don't get why people have to drop positive things just because they're into other things now. even if people have to quit doing their own zines, they could still be friends with and write to the people still doing them--and even contribute to them when they felt the desire to write again.

i know that for a lot of people being into punk, making zines, playing in bands, and all the stuff that goes along with it is just a phase. i also don't think that's always bad. i do think it's bad to burn your bridges, though, because if there's one thing that all of this stuff comes down to for me it's friendships. people may not be so into all of the same things anymore, but it seems to me that they should at least want to keep the friendships they've built.

another thing i noticed about a lot of the old zines that i don't see as much today is how much they were a representation of the people that made them. you'd read them and really feel like you knew the person who had put it together--or knew them better, at least. i still get this from some zines, but it seems like most zines now are focused on music, politics, or other very specialized areas. plus too many have delusions of grandeur, with their huge press runs on newsprint. you can write about very specific things while still making it personal. personal experiences with bands, events, political issues, and so on.

a lot of the old zines featured the writers talking about their friends, things they did day to day, interactions with other zine makers via letters and phone calls -- even going on roadtrips to visit one another, or other friends. it was like everyone knew everyone (or at least everyone in their little zine-sub-group), and mostly supported each other. now people make two or three issues and quit, never getting the chance to

pee-wee's playhouse #1 (5xdvd)... i think think that ever since i first started buying dvds (with the first season of the simpsons) i've been saying they should put pee-wee's playhouse out on dvd. at last they have. these sets just have the episodes (this one has two unreleased ones), but allegedly there's supposed to be a set coming out with commentaries and extras and stuff. i'm content with what i have, but who knows what the future may hold? this volume contains all of seasons one and two (plus those two extra episodes i mentioned). i'd not seen many of these since their original broadcasts, and a few i'm sure i'd missed altogether. i was amazed by how much i remembered, though--both from watching a tape my friend made and just from seeing them ages ago. there are classic moments like pee-wee and cowboy curtis square dancing and pogoing, jambi singing "how low can you go? uh-hu", ms yvonne's story about her dirty dishes piling up to the ceiling when she was sick, and the appearance of zyzybalubah. and let's not forget penny (perhaps the best aspect of the show)! essentially, in essence, it's essential viewing. go out and get it now!

pee-wee's playhouse #2 (5xdvd)... and here are seasons three, four, and five, plus six unreleased episodes. i wasn't as familiar with most of these episodes--some i'd never seen at all. i think these show began to use a lot more "adult themes" in the later episodes, like when ms yvonne gives ricardo a log book to keep track of each time he scores... in a game, or the mention of the smoke detector she has over her bed. you also get everyone playing library, reba coming over for (imaginary) breakfast, pee wee and cowboy curtis eating wieners, mrs rene dancing to a song that says, "baby, baby, baby, baby", pee wee telling reba's date, "later, blood", globey's dickie, and a cartoon with a dancing, toilet paper tossing bathtub! oh, and penny's russian sounding brother! i think i might like this even more than the first set, because it's even crazier. for immediate purchase. seriously.

the simpsons the complete fifth season (4xdvd)... obviously this is the most important thing reviewed in this issue. if you don't already have it, you are truly lame. amazingly, it only took six months for this to come out (usually it takes them about a year to release another season). i was so excited about it that i went out and bought it the day it was released. if you thought the fourth season was amazing, just watch this one! there are classic moments like mr burns as a vampire (his hairdoo looks so queer), sideshow bob's "die bart die" tattoo (anyone who speaks german can't be an evil man), homer's nacho hat, grampa dating marge's mom, homer as an astronaut, burn's bear bobo, and oh so much more. there are nine episodes included that i didn't have taped, some of which i'd only seen once or twice before, and three of which i'd never seen at all! now i can watch them endlessly! there's plenty more i could say about this, but what you mainly need to know is that there's a hollow space in your life that can only be filled by this dvd set.

peter tosh|stepping razor:red x (dvd)... i'm not sure how long this has been out, but i think it's from the mid 1990s. it's a documentary on peter tosh, largely focussing on his murder and it's somewhat mysterious circumstances. it has some pretty cool and amusing musical footage (particularly the segments with his ayatola headwear), as well as lots of weird and cryptic dialog taken from tapes tosh made as notes for an uatobiography. while his later musical output was inconsistent in quality, and he often seemed like kind of a jerk, i have to admire his conviction and unwillingness to comply with the "shitstem". most of the music presented here is really good, and some of the interview segments are very cool, or at least funny. there's a really good version of "you can't blame the youth", and some of the always cool footage from the 1973 ksan broadcast of the wailers (someone really need to release all of that!). overall it's pretty good, if you can find it for a decent price.

well, despite what i said last issue about having a bunch of reviews already done on the computer, i don't have them this time, either, because i'm computerless. unfortunately i think those reviews are lost forever. sorry to anyone that sent stuff and didn't get reviewed. i don't think there's any way i could figure out what all was on there and try to re-review it. hell, i don't think i even want to. of course, there are still plenty of reviews in this issue--i just feel bad about the ones i lost. on with the crap.

land of the lost the complete first season (3xdvd)... i would imagine that most of you that are younger than me don't remember this show. i would also imagine that most my age or older would certainly remember it. the terrible acting, repetitive plots, crappy special effects, and of course chaka are not easy things to forget. you get dinosaurs, sleestak (all three of them!), pakuni, giant carrots that seem to weigh 100 pounds, and crystal laden caves and pylons. it all looks like it would have cost about $200 to make, but actually took hundreds of thousands of dollars. it's ridiculous, and lots of fun to watch and make fun of. this is, of course, the sid and marty crofft version from the 1970s. i seem to recall an 80s version that was somehow even more poorly made. the big question is, "should i bother with buying the second season?"

"if you close your eyes, you'll never see my ugly side/ soon you will, so be prepared for the biggest let-down of your life"

the mystery science theater 3000 collection volume 3 (4xdvd)... first of all, with a $60 list price, this is not really worth buying. however, i got it for less than half of that when quonset hut went out of business, and it was certainly worth that. the first disc is "the atomic brain", about an old lady who wants her brain transplanted into a young body. the second is "the unearthly", about a doctor who thinks he can keep people eternally youthful by adding an extra gland to them. disc three is "the sidehackers", about weird souped-up motorbikes, love, and murder. the last disc is "shorts vol. 2", six short educational films from the 50s. it all features mike, joel, and the "bots" making fun of everything on the screen. honestly, i've seen many episodes better than these, but they're still pretty good.

the mystery science theater 3000 collection volume 4 (4xdvd)... this is way better than volume three. first up is "girl in gold boots", about a girl travelling to los angeles to become a dancer, along with two guys she meets along the way ("whatever, white people"). next is a horrid rendition of "hamlet", made for german tv--an english dubbed german version of an english play about denmark ("hold me, elongated phil collins"). disc 3 is "overdrawn at the memory bank", a futuristic, made-for-pbs movie about... nothing, really ("you make me tingle, fingal. fingal, are you single? give me a jingle!"). last is "space mutiny", a 1980s film not unlike battlestar galactica, but much, much worse. i think i'd actually seen part of the regular version of this on late night tv once.again, this costs too much, but if you see it used or cheap, buy it.

the mystery science theater 3000 collection volume 5 (4xdvd)... perhaps not quite as good as volume 4, but still hilariously good. the first disc is "boggy creek II: and the legend continues". it features a professor and some students searching for a sasquatch-like creature, which they encounter, along with a backwoods bumpkin who's captured it's offspring. disc two is "merlin's shop of mystical wonders", in which ernest borgnine tells somewhat gross and wicked stoies to a small child. in them, some jerk does magic and becomes a baby, and an evil toy monkey tries to kill everyone ("rock and roll martian!"). the third disc features "time chasers", a goofy film about a nerd who builds a time transport that ends up ruining the future, so he has to travel back in time to make his past self destroy the darn thing. last is "the touch of satan", about some witchy girls and a fellow who stumbles into their lives ("did a plucked turkey with a wig just talk to me?"). as usual, this is well worth getting, but only if you can get it cheap-ish (i got it used for $35!).

ID. (BUT I LIKE IT).

even make those connections. then again, i think most people only ever made a few issues--it's just that back then a few people actually made more...

it seems that the zine has in some ways been replaced by the online journal. people write a lot of similar things in those, and in a way make the same sort of connections with people all over, who also write in said journals. this is okay, except that it's not really that fun to stare at a computer screen, a lot of people don't have computers to access such things, and there are way too many of them to wade through, since it's not as specialized an area as punk-oriented zines. plus there aren't the graphic and artistic possibilities there are with zines (though i suppose there are other possibilities that you don't have with a print medium). in short, i guess what i'm getting at is that i want more people to make zines and send them to me (and again, perhaps it would help if i'd bother to send more out and make the initial contact rather than waiting for others to do so). i want to experience that feeling again where when i'm going to, say, cornerstone one of the main things i have to look forward to is seeing a bunch of like-minded or at least similarly interested people. i want to go to shows and be able to leave with two or three zines. basically, i want everyone to cater to my desires.

another nostalgic aspect of life in the last year or so has been getting to see a lot of old band--either those that have reunited, or those that never really broke up. back in october i got to see the subhumans (for the fifth time, weirdly enough). i remember that when they did their first reunion tour (thinking it would just be a one time thing), i went to see them twice, thinking i'd never have the chance again. then i saw them twice on the next tour. i was going to see them twice last time, but something got messed up with their visas and they missed the first few shows. soon i'll get to see them again (july 15th at the grog shop in cleveland. locals should go, or forever be considered a poseur by me). they're always great, and it's kind of weird that now going to see them isn't that big of a thing. they always make me want to quit my job and follow the tour, though... i already wrote, last issue, about going to the dead milkmen reunion show in philadelphia. obviously that was an amazing experience, and had that happy and sad mix of feelings that generally accompanies nostalgic experiences. this spring i got to see 7 seconds (for the fourth time! that seems kind of weird, too). i think it may have been the best time i've seen them. i was with a nice group of friends, none of whom had seen them before. they played mainly stuff from their first few records, and the two latest ones--though perhaps most excitingly(?) they opened with "still believe", which i'd never seen them play before (and which is one of my favorites). in may i got to see mdc (with the original line up, even), who were surprisingly good. i figured they might be okay, but for being old men who'd put out several not so great records since their very great early stuff, they were pretty amazing. they did a few songs from the new record and a few from "shades of brown", but mainly did "millions of dead oops" stuff (though nothing from "multi-death corporations", which is too bad). i was very surprised that they didn't do "chicken squawk", but they did manage to play some of their more complicated riffs and fills pretty well.
coming up soon i get to see the dickies again (who are the only non-dead milkmen band that i've ever wanted to play a longer set), which i'm sure will be wonderful, and i also get to see the subhumans again. it's fun, but also a little weird, to see these bands i grew up with playing now. it's also weird that all of the above mentioned bands are still great, which is more than we can say for the bad brains, isn't it?

BEVERAGE REVIEWS.

i think this time i tried some really good stuff, most of which should be pretty easy for you to find if you're so inclined. it's summertime, so you should consume extra amounts of beverages. makes sure they're good--heed my advice.

juicy juice watermelon... i'd never seen this before, so i was excited to get it. it's better than that awful watermelon snapple that i reviewed last time, but still not that amazing. there's something a little off about the flavor, which i think may be due to the presence of grape juice. it is 100% juice, which is good, but i guess i'll just never find a watermelon beverage as good as mistic watermelon-kiwi...

looza tropical... i think i'd only had looza nectars before, so this was a big change. it's 100% juice (pineapple, orange, passion fruit, lime, kiwi, banana, and mango), and that much better for it. i could do without the orange, but the rest is good. it's pretty yummy, but has a tartness that i don't really care for. the flavor potency is about right, though. i'd buy it again.

old orchard apple strawberry banana... those of you who remember the very fine "apple quenchers" line of beverages (and my love of them) may be happy to know that old orchard has created some of the same flavor combinations. to the best of my memory, this tastes pretty much the same as the very fine version--i.e., super good! quite possibly my favorite beverage. there's enough banana to make the strawberry taste good, and the overall flavor is just really, really yummy. you can get it locally at marc's for $1.50 in a 64 oz bottle. now that's value!

santa cruz organic tropical blend... this contains white grape, apple, orange,and pineapple juice--as well as mango puree. i was a little unsure about buying it, as i don't really care for orange juice, but it turns out that it's very good. i think the mango flavor is pretty strong, which is good. it's a little thinner than you might expect, but very sweet and yummy. i got it at the mustard seed in fairlawn.

old orchard 100% grape juice... this is good, cheap grape juice! i get it at marc's for $2 (in a 64 ounce bottle). it has a good, strong flavor, and even features grape seed extract. it's 100% juice--no screwing around--and it's yummy. they also have an organic kind now, for the same price. drink some.

silk very vanilla soymilk... first off, i am generally not a big fan of soymilk--and especially not of silk (except the nog, which is excellent). i prefer rice dream. however, this is very good. it has to have a lot of vanilla in order to cover up the usual awful silk flavor. it's actually almost like a very thin vanilla milk shake. it also has loads of vitamins (like calcium, b12, and protein--all of which people always bug me about when discussing my choice of diet). it's strangely good, and available almost everywhere.

DVD REVIEWS.

as you can see, i've been buying an awful lot of dvds. i think for a while my habit of buying a ridiculous amount of music got replaced with buying a ridiculous amount of dvds. it's trailed of now, though. i think i only have two things so far that i plan to review for the next issue. i pretty much only buy sets of cartoon shows, and i guess a couple other things. i saw a season of three's company at a record exchange the other day for $20, so if they still have that the next time i'm there i might get that...

the brak show volume one (2xdvd)... amazing. this is a totally hilarious collection of episodes of the show about brak, his mom and dad, zorak, and robotic neighbor, thundercleese. there are 14 episodes, which i'm not sure if that's a season or two seasons or what. there are guests like mr bawkbagawk, mobab, pepper, spoony, wonderbird, and more. disc two has a nice assortment of "extras", including cartoon planet segments (such as, "i love beans" and "don't touch me"), bits of brak presents the brak show starring brak, and five adult swim news segments (possibly the best part of the set). i think they could have fit more extras, but many there will be a volume two with more of them. i couldn't locate the audio commentaries, but josh told me where they were, and they're only mildly amusing. other than that, though, it's pretty gal dang funny. for immediate purchase.

home movies season one (3xdvd)... home movies is a super-duper funny cartoon featuring some of the folks that made dr katz, plus others. there are 13 episodes here (which would have fit on two discs. what the hell?), only four of which i'd seen before. my favorite character by far is jason--the round, nasal voiced, nose picking kid who makes movies along with main character brendon, and their friend melissa. included are episodes about a rabid cat ("i like the cotton candy thing!"), emo phillips as a neighborhood bully, a rock opera about franz kafka, falling in love with the school nurse, putting marbles in your nose, and so much more. the animation is similar to dr katz (when is that coming out on dvd?), but a bit more active. probably the most essential non-simpsons dvd set on the market today. "it tastes like pee turkey".

jesus christ superstar(dvd)... this says it's a "special edition". i'm not sure what that means, but i can tell you that it's neat. i've had the soundtrack to this for years, and rave rented the vhs version many times. for dvd, it's presented in it's original anamorphic widescreen format, which is even wider than what we're used to, and takes up only about half of the tv screen. apparently this was one of, if not the last film to use this format. i think i'd missed half of the movie with the vhs version! if you haven't seen jesus christ superstar, or somehow don't know the premise, it's a rock opera made in 1972 about the last few days of jesus' earthly life, mainly from the perspective of judas iscariot. it has neat, funky 70's acid rock songs, many in odd time signatures. it's a fairly open interpretation, and probably only 60-70% biblically accurate--but that's more than we can say for most american churches, isn't it? it was filmed in israel, and has cool ruins and stuff. plus you get audio commentary from the director and jesus. well worth the $10 i paid for it.